

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed November 10, 2005 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 1-43 are pending in this application, with claims 1 and 27 being the only independent claims. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as herein amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4, 6, 11-15, 17-20, 27, 29, 31-34, and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,574,514 (Tanihira) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,574,514 (Klosterman) and U.S. Patent No. 5,973, 722 (Wakai).

Claims 2 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Tanihara, Klosterman, and Wakai and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,623,613 (Rowe)

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Tanihira, Klosterman, and Wakai in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,141,036 (Katayama).

Claims 7, 8, and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Tanihira, Klosterman, and Wakai in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,751,581 (Ishiguro).

Claims 9, 10, 24, 25, and 38-42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Tanihira, Klosterman, and Wakai in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,526,581 (Edson).

Claims 21 and 35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Tanihira, Klosterman, and Wakai in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,232,539 (Looney).

Claims 22, 23, and 37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Tanihira, Klosterman, and Wakai in view of WO 99/35009 (Beckert).

Claims 26 and 43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Tanihira, Klosterman, and Wakai in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,157,725 (Becker).

Claim 16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Tanihira, Klosterman, and Wakai in view of EP 0 560 593 (Kawamura).

Independent claims 1 and 27 each recite that the audio/video appliances are connected to a local area network and that each of the audio/video appliances transmit information about the available audio/video presentations to said local area network. It is respectfully submitted that the combined teachings of Tanihira, Klosterman and Wakai fail to teach or suggest this limitation.

Tanihira discloses an audio/video device for a communication system in which a plurality of audio/visual devices are interconnected by a bus. Fig. 2 of Tanihira shows a bus 71 connecting various A/V devices 31-36, 41, and 43. Tanihira also discloses how the controllers SCU 21 or commanders 11, 12 use addresses to communicate with the individual A/V devices (col. 6, line 57 to col. 7, line 57). Col. 7, lines 50-57 of Tanihira specifically lists the various control buttons or keys on the commanders 11, 12 for controlling the various devices. The commanders 11, 12 are analogous to universal remote control units which include controls for TV, VCR, and DVD. As acknowledged in the Office Action, Tanihira fails to teach or suggest that the audio/video appliances transmit information about the available audio/video presentations to said local area network.

Klosterman also fails to teach the above limitation. Klosterman discloses a method and system for merging television guide information from at least two different sources (i.e., a local cable provider and a satellite provider). Fig. 1a discloses a system in which a television 22 is connected to a cable box 26 and an integrated receiving decoder (IRD) box 28, wherein cable programming signals are provided by the cable box 26 and Direct Broadcast Satellite System (DBS) signals are provided by the IRD box 28 (see col. 4, lines 3-5, of

Klosterman). The television set 22 and a VCR 24 are provided with inputs from the cable box 26 and the IRD box 28 (col. 3, lines 66-67). The IRD box 28 receives television program schedules and provides the schedule to the system (col. 4, lines 48-51). The cable box 26, antenna 34 and other inputs 30 similarly receive schedule information (col. 4, lines 59-62). A coordinator 20 finds and sorts program information by connection to the source (col. 4, line 65 to col. 5, line 1). The connection to the source may be accomplished via a telephone line (col. 5, lines 10-13). In view of the above, and as acknowledged in the Office Action, Klosterman discloses that the sources of the program schedules provide the program schedule to the coordinator 20. However, the sources, i.e., the IRD box 28 and the cable box 26, can not be considered to be audio/video appliances. Rather, the sources in Klosterman merely supply signals to the audio/video appliance (i.e., television set). Furthermore, Klosterman does not disclose storing information about available presentations of a plurality of audio/video appliances. Rather, Klosterman discloses generating a list of presentations that are available on a single audio/video appliance that has more than one source of programming. Accordingly, Klosterman fails to disclose, teach or suggest the recitation that each of the audio/video appliances transmit information about the available audio/video presentations to said local area network, as expressly recited in each of independent claims 1 and 27.

Wakai also fails to teach or suggest the limitation. Wakai discloses a digital audio/visual on demand and broadcast distribution system. More specifically, Wakai discloses an in-flight entertainment system in which content to be stored is entered via floppy disk drive, CD ROM, or a magnetic tape drive (col. 6, lines 8-17 of Wakai). The content is stored to one of a plurality of head end servers 100 including a data server 102, a media controller 104, and media servers 106, 108 (see also col. 5, lines 35-50). Wakai further discloses that the control

data used to configure and control the in-flight system is loaded into the system through floppy disks (col. 12, line 66 to col. 13, line 6). A list of available content is maintained in the media controller 104 and is updated when the content of the media servers is changed (col. 19, lines 33-36). Since both the content and list of available content are loaded into the system, Wakai fails to disclose that each of a plurality of A/V appliances of transmit the information about available presentations to a local area network, as expressly recited in independent claims 1 and 27.

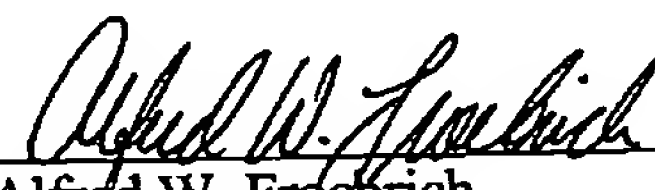
Dependent claims 2-26 and 28-43, each being dependent on one of independent claims 1 and 27, are deemed allowable for at least the same reasons expressed above with respect to independent claims 1 and 27, as well as for the additional recitations contained therein.

The application is now deemed to be in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is solicited.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

COHEN, PONTANI, LIEBERMAN & PAVANE

By 
Alfred W. Froeblich
Reg. No. 38,887
551 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1210
New York, New York 10176
(212) 687-2770

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